

CLAIMS

I CLAIM:

1. A guidewire comprising:
 - a body portion having a first diameter and comprising a multiple filament group of individual wire coils wound adjacent to one another;
 - a distal end having a second diameter that is less than the first diameter;
 - a taper portion having a taper from the first diameter to the second diameter; and
 - a coating disposed over the distal end, taper portion, and at least a part of the body portion.
2. The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating has a continuous diameter.
3. The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating defines a taper adjacent the taper portion.
4. The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises an elastic material.
5. The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises a low-friction coating.
6. The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises a hydrophilic material.
7. The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the distal end defines a lumen and a lumen opening, and wherein the coating terminates adjacent the opening.

8. The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the taper portion comprises individual wire coils having different diameters.

9. The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the taper portion comprises a multiple-filament group of individual wire coils wound at a pitch angle different than a pitch angle of a multiple-filament group of individual wire coils of the body portion.

10. A method of making a guidewire, comprising:
providing a multiple-filament group of individual wires;
winding the group around a longitudinal axis to form a body portion having a first diameter and one or more sequences of turns; and
covering the body portion with a coating.

11. The guidewire method according to claim 10, wherein the covering step comprises dipping the body portion in a liquid coating solution.

12. The guidewire method according to claim 10, further comprising forming a distal end having a second diameter that is less than the first diameter, and forming a taper portion having a taper from the first diameter to the second diameter.

13. The guidewire method according to claim 12, wherein the step of forming a taper portion comprises grinding individual wires of the taper portion.

14. A method of making a coated guidewire, comprising:
providing a guidewire comprising a body portion having a first diameter and comprising a multiple-filament group of individual wire coils wound adjacent to one another, a distal end having a second diameter that is less than the first diameter, and a taper portion having a taper from the first diameter to the second diameter; and
covering the distal end with a coating.

15. The guidewire method of claim 14, further comprising covering the taper portion with the coating.

16. The guidewire method of claim 15, further comprising covering a part of the body portion with the coating.

17. The guidewire method of claim 15, wherein the coating has a continuous diameter.

18. The guidewire method of claim 15, wherein the coating defines a taper adjacent the taper portion.